GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4438
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000
FLYASH DISCHARGE BY POWER PLANTS
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the percentage of flyash being produced and discharged by various power plants in Talcher and Choudwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the discharge of such flyash is hazardous to health of the people living around the power plants; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) & (b) : As per survey conducted by the National Productivity Council, ash production in Talcher region from the power stations of NTPC and captive power plants of M/sNational Aluminimum Company and M/s Fertilizers Corporation of India,was approximately 2.8 million tonnes during 1997-98 and is likely to increase to 5.33 million tonnes by the year 2002-2003. During the year 1999-2000, about 2.2 million tonnes of ash was produced from the Talcher Super Thermal Power Station (STPS)(2x500 MW)and Talcher Thermal Power Station (TPS) (4x60 MW +2x110 MW). About 1.4 million tonnes of ash was gainfully utilised from these stations in the areas of land development, roads, bricks making and issue to industries. Balance ash was discharged in ash ponds/ash mounds in an environmentally safe manner. Fly Ash Mission under Department of Science and Technology has commissioned a survey to assess fly ash generation and utilisation. The survey covers Choudwar Captive Power Plant also.

(c) & (d) : The fly ash from the Talcher STPP is arrested through high efficiency Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs)limiting particulate emissions to less than 150 mg/Nm3 as per the statutory requirements. These particulates are discharged through 275 mtrs. high stake which facilitates wider dispersion. Incremental level of particulate in ambient ash due to the operation of the plant is likely to be insignificant and no adverse impact is envisaged. The ash collected from the ESPshopper and bottom ash is discharged through slurry in a well designed ash ponds, bound by ash dykes all around, specially designed for this purpose. Adequate water cover is maintained over the ash dykes to avoid fugitive dust nuisance and to ensure that such fly ash do not become hazardous to the health of the people living around the power plants. NTPC has confirmedthat the effluent discharged from the ash pond meets the regulatory standard. NTPC has retrofitted additional ESPs in Stage-II units of the Talcher TPS and has brought down the emission level within the statutory limits and is presently retrofitting ESPs for Stage-I. No information is available in case of Choudwar CaptivePower Plant.